

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC#

424-2013

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO:

Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Cornmission

FROM:

Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE:

December 3, 2013

SUBJECT: PARKS & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ADVISORY BOARD MOTIONS

The Parks and Recreational Facilities Advisory Board passed two (2) motions at their meeting held on November 13, 2013.

## 1. South Pointe Park Off Leash Dog Area

MOTION: The Parks & Recreational Facilities Advisory Board unanimously requests that

1. The Commission not extend the off-leash dog pilot program.

2. In the event, the Commission decides to extend the pilot program; the Board would like the Neighborhoods Community Affairs Committee to hear the matter to include Parks and Recreation Department Personnel input regarding the feasibility of moving the area from the waterfront/lighthouse triangle to an alternate location.

3. Finally, should the Commission not follow the recommendations above and continue with the pilot program, that the City find an aesthetic hedge to differentiate the area for a visual barrier for the dogs/dog owners.

Members Present: Meryl Wolfson, Harriet Halpryn, Leslie Graff, Kim Brown and Jonathan Groff

Motion Made By: Jonathan Groff Motion Seconded By: Meryl Wolfson

Motion Passed: Votes 4-0

## 2. South Pointe Park Tot Lot Fence

MOTION: The Parks & Recreational Facilities Board unanimously recommends against installing a fence around the South Pointe Park Tot Lot. The Board feels that the initial concept/design of the tot lot was well designed and intentionally planned as a fenceless playground. The design took into account the safety of the children, the surrounding environment and certain natural barriers.

Members Present: Jonathan Groff, Meryl Wolfson, Leslie Graff and Harriet Halpryn

Motion Made By: Meryl Wolfson Motion Seconded By: Leslie Graff

Motion Passed: Votes 4-0

After a thorough discussion by members of the Parks and Recreational Facilities Advisory Board, the Board does not see a conflict in its support for maintaining the professionally planned and designed fenceless playground, vs. advocating for a barrier around the unplanned off-leash dog park, which was not part of the initial park design.

According to the Board, the playground is in the heart of South Pointe Park and was intentionally designed to fit the environment. The area has certain natural barriers, and safety can be assured with parents supervising small children.

The Parks & Recreational Facilities Advisory Board by contrast, believes that the off-leash dog park which was not part of the initial park design, was subsequently installed without thought to how it might affect other park users. For reasons previously expressed to the Commission, the Board long advocated against continuing the off-leash area at South Pointe Park.

c: J. Ma

J. Mark Taxis, Assistant City Manager John Rebar, Parks & Recreation Director

Julio Magrisso, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director